

APPENDIX A

Appealed claims

1. A method of establishing an audio-video conference, comprising the following steps:

- a) holding an audio-only conference;
- b) displaying static visual images during the audio-only conference; and
- c) holding an audio conference accompanied by a live video conference.

2. A method of establishing an audio-video conference, comprising the following steps:

- a) setting up an audio-video conference on a high-bandwidth communication channel;
- b) during the setting-up step, holding an audio conference using a POTS channel; and
- c) after setting up completes
  - i) holding the audio-video conference on the high-bandwidth channel; and
  - ii) terminating the audio conference on the POTS channel.

3. An apparatus, comprising:

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- a) a computer-readable storage medium;
- b) software means, physically configured in the storage medium, for:

- i) receiving image data from a remote location and displaying a static image, based on the data;
- ii) holding an initial audio conference with a remote communication device during display of the static image;
- iii) holding a sequel to the audio conference with said remote device; and
- iv) holding a video conference with said remote device during the sequel.

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4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the initial audio conference is held using POTS lines, and the sequel is held using a high-bandwidth channel.

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5. Method according to claim 2, wherein the parties who participate in the audio-video conference are the same parties who participate in the audio conference.

6. Method according to claim 2, wherein the audio conference is held using telephones, and, prior to the audio conference, a

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telephone company issued ring signals to at least some of the telephones.

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7. Method according to claim 1, wherein the live video conference utilizes a communication channel, and the audio-only conference utilizes a sub-channel of said communication channel.

8. Method according to claim 2, wherein the audio-video conference utilizes a communication channel, and the audio conference utilizes a sub-channel of said communication channel.

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9. Method according to claim 1, wherein the live video conference utilizes a relatively high-bandwidth communication channel, and the audio-only conference utilizes a POTS channel, of relatively lower bandwidth.

10. Method according to claim 2, wherein the audio-video conference utilizes a relatively high bandwidth communication channel, and the audio conference utilizes a relatively low bandwidth POTS channel.

11. Method according to claim 2, and further comprising:

d) during the setting-up step, displaying static pictures of the conference participants on equipment

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later used to hold the audio-video conference.

12. Method according to claim 11, and further comprising:

e) terminating display of the static pictures after the setting-up completes.

13. Method according to claim 11, and further comprising:

e) replacing each static picture by a live video image of the participant previously depicted in the static picture.

14. Method according to claim 1, wherein the static video images each depict a different person.

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